OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy
(2010/2010(INI))

Rapporteur: Edward Scicluna
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Is of the opinion that the current global economic and social crisis, which has slowed down changes in energy use and reductions in carbon emissions, should not deter Member States from making the transition towards a competitive, more sustainable, low-carbon, resource-efficient economy, given that this will make them more resilient, less dependent on increasingly expensive imports and more competitive;

2. Maintains that a European employment strategy has to give consideration to the economic effects of climate change on European labour markets, economic activities designed to adapt to such changes, and other activities resulting from policy changes aimed at alleviating climate change;

3. Stresses that an eco-efficient economy and green jobs can be promoted by shifting the tax burden from labour and enterprises towards non-renewable energy resources, and that this will also avoid negative environmental impacts;

4. Points out that the Commission should take advantage of the preparations for the next multiannual financial framework to promote a sustainable job market by placing special emphasis on green jobs;

5. Asks Eurostat, the OECD and all the Member States’ statistical agencies to consider restructuring the statistical classification of economic activities to reflect better the new environmental industries, which are currently hidden because they are incorporated into the conventional industrial classification, by introducing a separate NACE code;

6. Notes that, according to the OECD, the environmental goods and services sector has the potential to provide jobs for a wide range of skills and abilities, including low-skilled workers, and calls on the Commission to pay special attention to this vulnerable group;

7. Takes the view that, given demographic trends, there is great potential for developing sustainable jobs in the area of social and healthcare services, which should be tapped in the interests of an effective employment policy;

8. Takes the view that employment policy plays a central role in combating poverty and social exclusion, and consequently calls, in line with the ILO ‘Decent Work’ programme, for qualitatively good working conditions and remuneration that not only provides a decent living, but also guarantees an appropriate share of GDP;

9. Stresses that the transition to a green economy will require adequate training and educational programmes, and that in some cases universities need to consider offering entirely new fields of study and majors, and encourages the Member States, as a matter of urgency, to address the skill gap that already exists between available workers and the needs of green industries;
10. Calls for efficient funding systems and fiscal incentives to help SMEs steer towards green employment policies and ensure green innovations and production;

11. Calls for industry to be involved in eco-innovation, since entrepreneurs have a very important role to play in spreading eco-innovation more widely; notes, in this regard, that informing entrepreneurs – by demonstrating new business opportunities – will be crucial to the success of a strategy aimed at developing resource-efficient economies and sustainable industries;

12. Maintains that, in view of the accelerated restructuring anticipated in response to both the global crisis and climate change, the Member States should be required to prepare a framework which spells out clearly how governments, employers and employees are expected to adapt;

13. Takes the view, while agreeing that a European employment strategy should define ‘green jobs’ as broadly as possible, that distinctions should be made between pollution control, recycling, waste management, water resource management, water treatment activities, nature conservation, the production of environmental technologies, the production of renewable energy and related equipment, and environmental R&D;

14. Expresses its concern over the lack of labour mobility in the EU’s internal market; points out that there are still restrictions on the free movement of labour from the new Member States, and that the portability of social rights is limited;

15. Expresses its concern over the long-term job insecurity that has developed in the EU labour market over the last two decades, with young people especially tending increasingly to work on short-term contracts with poorer working conditions; takes the view that new jobs created under these circumstances cannot be regarded as sustainable; feels that these structural deficiencies need to be addressed in the context of seeking to develop the job potential of a new sustainable economy.
RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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<th>Date adopted</th>
<th>22.6.2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Result of final vote</td>
<td>+: 41</td>
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<td>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</td>
<td>Elena Băsescu, David Casa, Iliana Ivanova, Syed Kamall, Philippe Lamberts</td>
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